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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rey T. Chern, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/271,098

Case No.: 20023Y

Filed: March 18, 1999

For: LIQUID POLYMERIC COMPOSITIONS FOR
CONTROLLED RELEASE OF BIOACTIVE
SUBSTANCES

Art Unit:

1615

Examiner:
Sharareh, S.

#29
HKO
3.19-03

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION
AND RESPONSE

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request a one-month extension to March 5, 2002, of the deadline to respond to the Office Action mailed November 5, 2002, for the above-identified application. The fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1) should be charged to Deposit Account 13-2755.

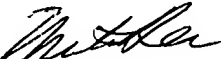
In response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2002, Applicants respectfully request continued prosecution of the above-identified application. A Continued Prosecution Application request is enclosed herewith. A Preliminary Amendment is forthcoming. The

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE
DATE OF DEPOSIT 03/05/03
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 920633338 US
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE AS EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO
ADDRESSEE" BEFORE 5 P.M. ON THE ABOVE DATE IN
AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C., 20231.
MAILED BY Lore Schegura
DATE 03/05/03

03/07/2003 SDENBOB1 00000087 132755 09271098
02 FC:1251 110.00 CH

Examiner is respectfully requested to delay examination until such Amendment is received. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned prior to commencing examination if such Preliminary Amendment is absent from the file at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:  _____

Mitul I. Desai

Reg. No. 46,661

Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., Inc.

P.O. Box 2000

Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907

(732) 594-3190

Date: March 5, 2003